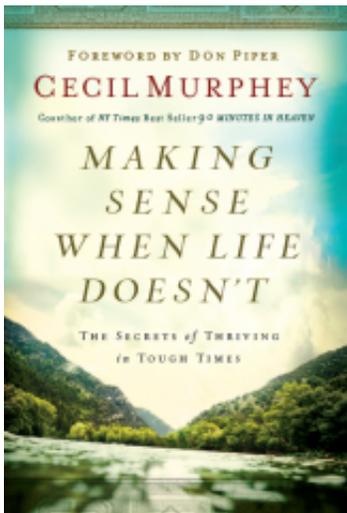


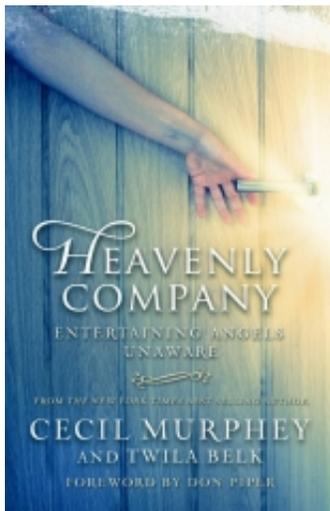


*Cecil Murphey*

WRITER \* SPEAKER \* TEACHER \* SURVIVOR

Hurricanes, layoffs, losses, relationship issues--life is messy. In this book Cec shares secrets for thriving in tough times.



Christmas isn't the only time God used angels to speak His messages or minister to His people. God's angels are still at work today. This book has proof.

## We Can Change the Past

My friend Stan Cottrell in telling me something that happened years ago, began, "This may not be accurate, but it's how I remember it."

Stan was willing to concede that his memory might have changed what happened. Yes, I thought we *can* change the past—but even more, we all do it. Unconsciously.

I thought about "Rich" who told me about his childhood that included an indifferent mother and a verbally abusive father. He ended with, "Two months ago, God split my life wide open."

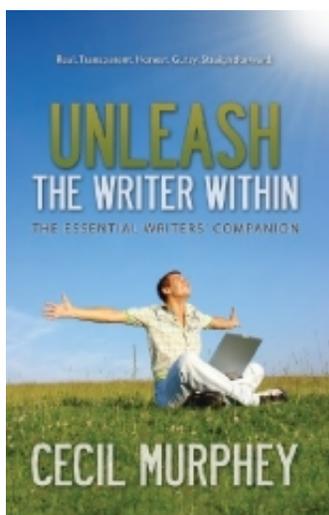
Years later Rich published his autobiography and at a writers conference he told his story.

After he finished, I decided two things. First, Rich had become a gifted speaker.

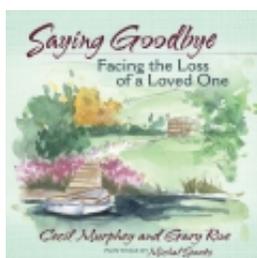
Second, he told a good story, but it wasn't true. That is, it conflicted with what he told me years earlier. Back then, his story was powerful even though unpolished. For instance, his current version made his mother an alcoholic and his father beat him almost every night.

I don't think Rich lied, but his memory shifted and his situation probably worsened a little each time he talked about childhood. In his eloquent presentation, he quoted Bible verses that helped him turn to God. I'm sure Rich didn't read the Bible then and certainly not obscure passages from Job and Jeremiah.

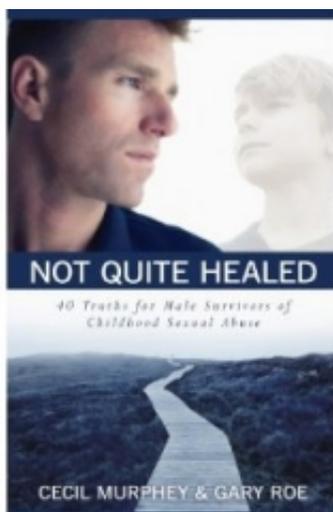
This isn't to condemn Rich because I'm as guilty as he is—not intentionally and not because I want to lie or enrich a story. I've learned that as the memory fades, we innocently insert information and that becomes our version of truth.



Do you have any writers on your Christmas list? Surprise them with *Unleash the Writer Within*.



Facing the imminent death of a loved one can be a difficult and painful experience. Cec and hospice chaplain Gary Roe offer help in this beautiful gift book, due to release in early 2013.



In addition to *When a Man You Loved Was Abused* and Cec's blog for male survivors of childhood sexual abuse, *Not Quite Healed* will be another helpful resource.

Some say that's evidence of human, sinful condition.

The awareness has become significant for me in two ways. First, I'm a collaborator/ghostwriter. After I've written others' past accounts, family members have sometimes insisted, "That's not the way it happened." (They probably disremembered as well.)

Second, it has forced me to think more carefully when I relate the past. I'm determined to follow Stan Cottrell's example and say, "This is how I remember it" instead of "This is how it happened."

*I don't intentionally stretch the truth,  
but my fallible memory does.*

## Personal News

Shirley's doctor said her spine has deteriorated severely and she probably wouldn't do well with surgery. She now uses a walker and can no longer drive. She's handling it well. Thanks to you who emailed or called.

November wasn't a vacation but a pull-back month. I've adjusted my schedule by turning down several good writing projects and scheduled fewer trips (especially long ones).

December 3, I'll make an overnight trip to Pittsburgh for two TV interviews. I have three radio interviews scheduled this month.

Twila Belk and I are finishing *I Believe in Heaven* for summer release.

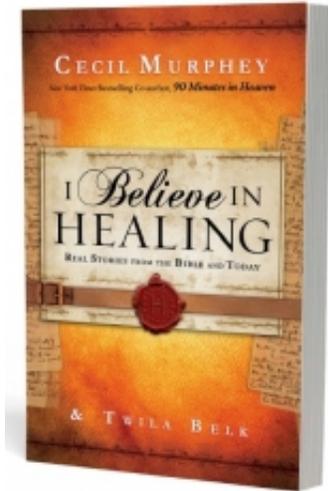
I've begun to work on a book with a survivor of human trafficking and it's powerful as well as incredibly sad.

## The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

We recently learned that Cec will have the honor of being inducted to the Central High School hall of fame in Davenport, Iowa, in April, and I've been asked to introduce him. I'm a proud mama.

Cec teamed up with hospice chaplain Gary Roe for his newest gift book, *Saying Goodbye: Facing the Loss of a Loved One* (Harvest House Publishers), which will release early in the year. If you are a hospice worker, hospice chaplain, or someone who works in a similar area, and

Publication date is February 1.



Regal Books is excited about *I Believe in Healing* and thinks it will be one of their big books of next year. They plan to release it in early 2013. *I Believe in Heaven* will release shortly thereafter.

would like to be put on our influencer list, [email me](#) and I'll make sure you get a copy of the book when it's available.

Two other books that will release at the first part of the year are [Not Quite Healed: 40 Truths for Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse](#) (Kregel Publications) and *I Believe in Healing* (Regal Books). Cec has four or five more books due to release later in the year. Whew! I'm worn out just thinking about it.

Have you noticed that life doesn't always make sense? Cec interviewed with Jeanne Dennis of Heritage Keepers on the topic of *Making Sense When Life Doesn't*. [Click here to watch.](#)

Did you know that all of the royalties for Cec's books go into a nonprofit account that provides scholarships for writers and funds for ministries? You can help provide scholarships and fund ministries, too, by encouraging people to read his books. Word of mouth, blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and writing book reviews are all great methods to do that.

Cec Links: (1) [Website](#), (2) [Blog for writers](#), (3) [Blog for male survivors of sexual abuse](#), (4) [Twitter](#), (5) [YouTube](#), (6) [Facebook—Cec and Me, with Cecil Murphey and Twila Belk](#), (7) [Facebook—Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers](#), (8) [Facebook—When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers](#), (9) [Facebook—When Someone You Love Has Cancer](#), (10) [Facebook—Christmas Miracles](#), (11) [Facebook—Men Shattering the Silence](#), (12) [Twila's website](#), (13) [Twila's email](#)

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